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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Information on Occupation of the Weisswasser Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 2 October 1953

REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

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SOURCE

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1. On 26 August 1953, source observed 2 SU-76 type SP guns chassis, 9 tank trucks and 4 trucks at the parking site for tanks at Camp Nochten.<sup>1</sup>
2. On 29 August, source observed 8 tents with a capacity of 18 men each, 10 T-34 tanks, 5 SU-76 SP guns, and 3 trucks at the firing range southeast of Nochten.<sup>1</sup>
3. Source learned from workers employed at Camp Nochten that a total of 45 T-34 tanks and SU-76 type SP guns were available at Camp Nochten on 29 August.<sup>1</sup>
4. On 23 August, a KVP tank unit of 80 men without heavy equipment arrived at Uhyst railroad station for a one-week training course at Camp Nochten. On 29 August, the unit left Nochten toward Brandenburg.<sup>1</sup>
5. In late August, the guard detail of Camp Nochten numbered about 50 men who belonged to an infantry unit from Loebau. From time to time, the guard detail was released from Loebau.<sup>2</sup>
6. Source learned that the KVP units rotating to the Weisswasser troop training grounds in August were trained in driving tanks in the area east of Tzschelin. When the courses were completed small-scale tank exercises involving up to 10 tanks were held. Small signal and engineer units also participated in these exercises. During the reported period, the firing range southeast of Nochten was occasionally used by small Soviet tank units. The Soviet units would arrive and leave at night.<sup>2</sup>
7. In early September, Camp Nochten quartered about 600 men, of whom 70 percent wore red-bordered dark blue collar patches, 15 percent yellow-bordered black and the remainder blue-bordered black collar patches. The soldiers, allegedly, belonged to units which had come from Brandenburg, Potsdam, Erfurt, Weimar, Spremberg, Zeithain and Loebau for two to four-week courses.  Camp commandant was Major Prokop from Dresden. A total of 25 T-34/85 tanks and 20 type SU-76 SP guns were stationed at the installation.<sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup>

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8. On 4 September, all the KVP units left Camp Nochten, taking their heavy equipment along. Only a rear detail of 26 men who wore black-bordered red epaulets and were led by a senior lieutenant remained. This detail which belonged to a unit from Loebau, was increased by 11 factory police on 4 September. 2 and 3

9. About 6 p.m. on 21 August, a train of 24 boxcars, each of them loaded with 30 to 40 KVPs who wore black-bordered blue epaulets and were armed with submachine guns, and 2 passenger cars occupied by officers including 3 majors was unloaded at Weisswasser. The train had arrived from the direction of Cottbus. According to one of the officers, the unit had come from the direction of Plauen. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The occupation of the troop training grounds was estimated at 8,000 KVPs.<sup>1</sup>

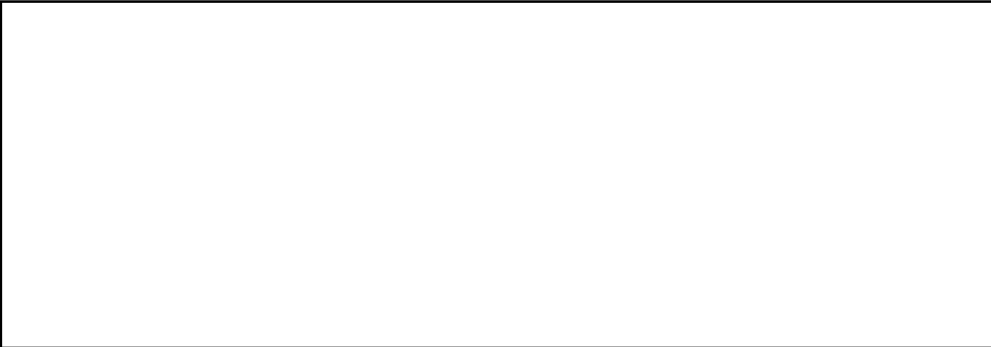
10. About 11 a.m. on 24 August, a smoke screen was laid in the area of the infantry training field. Double sentries armed with submachine guns were posted about 150 meters apart along the Weisswasser-Nochten road, on the western boundary of the troop training grounds. Firing with machine guns and also with AT guns and mortars was heard. On 27 and 28 August, from 500 to 600 KVPs who wore black-bordered red epaulets and black-bordered blue epaulets were observed conducting firing practices with live ammunition and heavy machine guns, submachine guns and carbines.<sup>1</sup>

11. On 27 and 28 August, firing by tank guns and AT guns was heard from the direction of the tank target range. Source learned from a KVP soldier that the firing practices were supervised by two Soviet majors and a captain [REDACTED]

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13. On 21 and 22 August, three railroad tank cars with fuel arrived at Weisswasser railroad station. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The morning of 24 August, two boxcars with ration supplies were unloaded at the Weisswasser ration supply depot.

14. On 30 August, the KVP unit which had been stationed at the tank target range left for the maneuver area. Tent equipment was taken along by the unit, which was under the command of Major Eberhard Fritzsche from Erfurt.<sup>3</sup>


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15. Between 1 and 2 a.m. on 1 September, a convoy of 14 trucks each occupied by 10 to 15 KVPs who carried field equipment was seen in Gross Duesen coming from Weisswasser and proceeding toward Cottbus. 

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16. Source learned that between 29 August and 1 September KVP personnel carrying field equipment daily used the scheduled passenger train from Goerlitz to Weisswasser. They left the train either at Rietschen or at the block station of Weisskessel. On 1 September, source observed at Rietschen a KVP unit of about 350 men who wore blue service color.<sup>3</sup>

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17. On 1 September, KVP maneuvers began in the area east of the Weisswasser-Rietschen railroad line. Between 1 and 10 September, the Weisskessel-Rietschen road which runs through the maneuver area was blocked to civilian traffic. A tent camp quartering at least 1,000 to 1,500 men was observed near Traenke. Units which had newly arrived from Loegau and Zittau, allegedly, also participated in these maneuvers.<sup>3</sup>

18. In early September, source learned from two KVPs that Camp Nochten quartered only 500 men. A total of 4,000 KVPs with 10 tanks, 8 AT guns and mortars had allegedly left for the wooded area east of the Weisswasser-Rietschen railroad line in order to participate in maneuvers held there. Source learned from local residents that another 2,500 KVPs had returned to their military posts to take part in maneuvers there. Most of the units involved had allegedly, left by truck, but some of them also moved by rail from Rietschen.<sup>5</sup>

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20. Prior to 6 September 1953, Camp Nochten had quartered KVP personnel with green collar patches. Between 6 and 8 September, the camp was vacated; however, no entraining operations were observed at Weisswasser railroad station. Before the camp was vacated, construction materials arrived at the installation.

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25X1A 1. [ ] Comment. Prior to late August, training activities at the Weisswasser troop training grounds were normal, KVP units training there belonged to TVs 3000, 6000 and Bereitschaft Berlin. [ ]

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25X1A 2. [ ] Comment. VP defectors stated that the guard detail at Camp Nochten belonged to the 3d Mecz Kommando of TV 3000 in Loebau.

25X1A 3. [ ] Comment. Another source previously reported on the holding of major exercises in the Traenke area. [ ] It is believed that the exercises did not exceed reinforced regiment level.

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25X1A 4. [ ] Comment. It is believed that the troops observed returned to their military posts.

25X1A 5. [ ] Comment. The return of KVP units from the Weisswasser area in late August early September was also confirmed by transportation reports.

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